

The Coalition Bulletin

The *Coalition Bulletin* is a monthly publication of the Coalition Public Awareness Working Group, Coalition Village, US Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base. Tampa, Florida.

The Aim: To raise awareness of the broad international participation in the Coalition and to inform its readership about the full spectrum of Coalition missions.

The Intent: To give the Coalition an identity by featuring the on-going international effort that is making a difference in the Campaign against Terrorism.

The Reason: Every contribution large or small is valued by the Coalition and highlighting these efforts, through *The Coalition Bulletin*, will help raise awareness of the world's largest military coalition.

Seventy Countries - Common values - One mission - *"One Team, One Fight" – General Tommy Franks*

The terrorist attack that rocked the United States a year ago was more than an attack on a single country; it was an assault on all nations who value peace and freedom.

That is why the military response is not just one nation's undertaking.

No fewer than 70 countries have come together, to join the United States and fight those who have tried to inflict their extreme views on the rest of the world.

Assembled beside US Central Command's Headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida are representatives from the largest military coalition the world has ever seen. Some 43 of the 70 participating countries have sent national military contingents to what is referred to as the "*Coalition*

Village." These delegations and the military forces they represent together with their US counterparts are united as one *Coalition* by a common set of values and one mission that has become *The Campaign against Terrorism.*



The lead nation in this Coalition is the US.

Contributions from the other Coalition nations are in support of the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom.



The military delegations in this Coalition Village come from almost every corner of the world, with diverse cultures, many different faces, and a bewildering variety of languages and uniforms. The village may be multicultural and diverse but its inhabitants share a common purpose; to deny those that seek to take away freedom and peace from the world.

While it may appear to be an American war, the military response is truly an international effort.

Nearly 8,000 military personnel from some 17 nations have

joined the United States in this Coalition. This international effort represents close to 15% of the total Coalition force.

Add to that more than 4,700 military personnel from 21 different countries involved in the UN directed International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF), and the true size and breadth of this international effort can be understood.

The Coalition presence in the region is formidable with air, land and naval forces conducting continuous operations against an enemy on the run.

Romanian infantry are now patrolling the hills around Kandahar, supporting the hunt for the remaining pockets of Al Qaida and Taliban. Canadian frigates are leading a Task Group in the Northern Arabian Sea, a naval cordon to prevent the escape of terrorist leaders. A contingent of Dutch, Norwegian and Danish F-16s are flying close support missions for American and other Coalition troops in Afghanistan. Turkish troops and their partners are leading ISAF, which has brought priceless stability to the area around Afghanistan's capital, and so the list goes on.

The Coalition has had considerable success in its mission. It has disrupted terrorist networks, destroyed their infrastructure, and denied them safe havens and escape routes that have prevented them from re-organizing and consolidating. These successes have not come without a cost. To date, more than 80 military personnel from many of the Coalition countries have died.

Although the Taliban and Al Qaida were defeated by force of arms, the Coalition has also been focussed on fostering stability in Afghanistan.

The countries of the Coalition recognize that if terrorism is to be defeated, freedom and peace must be defended. They recognize that in this struggle, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction aid are weapons that are as important as armoured personnel carriers and cruise missiles.

The Coalition understands that the Campaign against Terrorism is not a short-term goal. And achieving it is not a short-term undertaking. "We're closer to the beginning than we are to the end", said the Commander-in-Chief of US Central Command, General Tommy Franks.

Coalition Civil Military Cooperation

Decades of war, compounded by the tyranny of the Taliban and the terror of Al Qaida have left Afghanistan destitute and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis.



The Coalition, with its collective military might, has helped the people of Afghanistan remove these threats and oust the perpetrators. However, the military mission is not over.

There is more to this coalition than just military forces; there is a

humanitarian side to the collective efforts of this international military force.

All Coalition countries that are supporting this military effort in Afghanistan understand the importance of stability and reconstruction.

In Afghanistan, the need for stability is vital to its future as a nation. A stable Afghanistan is also a key to keeping the terrorists from coming back.

Recognizing that Afghanistan needs long-term stability, the Coalition has been helping the people of Afghanistan to rebuild their country through civil military cooperation.

Coalition civil military cooperation not only helps to rebuild the devastation that is so widespread in Afghanistan, it also helps to foster better relations with local authorities and the people of this destitute nation.

A military force cannot begin to assist with rebuilding until the country's leaders identify where their priorities lie. Through the efforts of the UN, the Coalition and non-government organizations, these priorities are identified and assessed so that assistance from the contributing nations can be coordinated.

A key part of the Coalition coordination effort is the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force. With Coalition military personnel working throughout Afghanistan, this civil-military organization identifies, coordinates and conducts quick-fix humanitarian

projects that are not being accomplished by the greater humanitarian assistance community, such as the UN and non-government organizations.

By working with the Afghan government, the Coalition has been able to identify key areas of assistance that it can support. Not surprisingly, the restoration of basic education and health care, as well as rehabilitation of housing and agriculture, was determined to be immediate priorities.

How has the Coalition helped in these areas? Through the coordination efforts of the hundreds of coalition civil affairs personnel and the outpouring of aid from around the world and coalition military assistance, a great deal is being accomplished.

Coalition forces have used their military capabilities; such as engineering and airlift to not only bring the necessary materials to Afghanistan but to affect the reconstruction process on the ground, as well.

One of the top priorities was basic health care. As a response, the Coalition has put significant amount of effort into rebuilding and refurbishing medical facilities. Military engineers from several Coalition nations were involved in the reconstruction of many hospitals throughout the country.

Coalition military engineers also helped to rebuild dozens of schools and universities. They have also cooperated with housing and civil infrastructure, including shelters, roads, bridges and wells throughout Afghanistan. This is vital, considering the need to encourage the thousands displaced by war to return to their villages and begin the task of reconstructing their lives and their nation.



Without donations from around the world and the Coalition, to get this aid to Afghanistan, this civil military cooperation effort could never be sustained.

Using Coalition transport assets, an enormous amount of aid from all over the globe has been brought into Afghanistan. For instance, over the past several months Russia has transported 420,296 tons of food; 2,198 tons of medicine; 15,282 beds; 1,200 heaters; 13 mini electric power stations; 780 tents; 11,000 blankets; 49,674 bedding kits; 11,000 kitchen sets; and 9 tons of detergent. Many more countries have either donated or transported similar materials. The effort continues.

The Coalition against Terrorism that has denied terrorists a safe haven in Afghanistan is now helping the people of Afghanistan to stand up on their own and prevent those who bring terror and tyranny from ever coming back.

Making a Healthy Difference in Afghanistan

In this day and age, a military operation is rarely planned without taking in account the civil military cooperation.

One area where military forces can be translated into civil assistance is health care.

One of the first things a war-ravaged country needs is medical care for its people. Repairing the original infrastructure and airlifting supplies is often the long-term solution. However, in the aftermath of a conflict the needs of the sick and injured cannot wait that long.

The Coalition forces that operate in Afghanistan require their own medical facilities, which are provided by a number of Coalition nations who send medical personnel and facilities to the area of operation. The men and women who serve in these military medical facilities do not just tend to those in uniform; they also go beyond the call of duty and give medical care to the people of Afghanistan.



The Coalition medical effort that has been given to the people of Afghanistan has been substantial. Many countries have contributed, including, Jordan, South Korea and Spain. While their priority is providing health care for those that are serving, they have done some remarkable work for the local population.

Since the beginning of operations in Afghanistan, more than 140,000 Afghan people have received medical attention from the military

medical personnel. More than 5,000 have been children; some suffering from malnutrition, while others have been maimed by mines.

This cooperation and humanitarian effort is not only fulfilling to those medical personnel who give this care but it also leaves a lasting impression with the families and friends of those that were in need.

While statistics tell one side of the story it is the individual cases of humanity and cooperation that gives the whole picture, including the human aspect.

One such anecdote of hope was the case of a young Afghan boy named Basir. A twelve-year-old living in Kabul, he would have died from a terrible tumour in his throat if not for a Spanish military hospital in Bagram, north of Kabul. With the aid of modern technology and expert medical training, Spanish medical officers were able to make an accurate diagnosis. Once the seriousness of Basir's condition was known, the Spanish military airlifted him to Madrid to save his life.



Happily, Basir is recovering and is now living in Spain; a small gesture from a coalition nation that is committed to giving the people of Afghanistan a sense of hope.

Nation Building – One Soldier at a Time

Within the nation-building process in Afghanistan, the creation of an effective national army is one if not the most important objectives the Coalition can contribute to. The Afghan National Army (ANA) is not only supposed to provide territorial integrity and sovereignty for Afghanistan but they are to be the symbol of Afghanistan's desired national unity.

Unity in Afghanistan is not simply a regional or ethnic issue. There is a maze of warlords who remain armed and suspicious of each other. Without a viable and authoritative Afghan Army, this rivalry could very easily return Afghanistan to the turmoil and violence of the Taliban era.

A strong national army is a key catalyst to the disarming of the warlords and a prerequisite to the long-term stability of this war torn nation.

Before the Coalition can assist in the training of the Afghan Army, there must first be agreement on its mandate. After much consultation, the Afghan government and the Coalition agreed on the primary and follow-on missions of the Afghan National Army.

- Defending the independence and territorial integrity of the country.
- Preserving the national and traditional honours and values of the country.
- Military support for the Afghan Government.

- Providing security to ensure the progress of the ongoing political process.
- Replacement of all the existing factional and private military forces.

There was also agreement on what guiding principles the army should strive for:

- Loyalty and subordination to the constitution and the legitimate political leadership.
- Representative of the country and multi-ethnic in composition.
- Defensive in function and proportionate in size to the threats it faces.
- A forward-looking and professional institution that encourages education and development.
- Fully involved and in support of the reconstruction of the country.

Considering the frailty of the Afghan government and the numerous divisions throughout the country, these were ambitious objectives.

While it was a daunting task, the Coalition approached this challenge with the same intensity and motivation that they have in dealing with the terrorist threat that brought them to Afghanistan in the first place.

Passing on basic military skills was the task. Cooperation was the key.

After ten months, the achievements are substantial. One battalion of the Afghan National Army is now able to provide security to the President's

Palace after receiving significant training by the United Kingdom and Turkey. Four other battalions of the Afghan Army have received basic training from the United States and France. A fifth battalion has started the registration process.



No one denies the language problems, the poor infrastructure and the lack of basic equipment – but the Afghan soldiers and their trainers agree that they are proud of their goals and the results achieved so far.

A Contributor to the Coalition – Pakistan



A key element of Operation Enduring Freedom is the coordination provided by participating coalition forces. The very nature of coordination – men, material or both – varies from country to country. The level of significance each country attributes to Operation Enduring Freedom activity remains equally high. One notable country among this select gathering of responsible nations is Pakistan, which joined the coalition at its inception and has been fully

committed to its complete success since then. In the process, it has committed not only moral but also significant logistical support and military bases all around the country. Some key elements of this support are:

- Extension of Karachi airport and seaport facilities, along with requisite logistic support, to coalition forces.
- Landing facility to coalition ships along the coast of Pakistan.
- 5 air bases/airfields, to meet the requirement of coalition forces. Besides these, in emergency, coalition aircraft are authorized to land anywhere in Pakistan.
- Provision of 2/3 of country's air space as air corridor to the coalition forces, by rescheduling/redirecting many of its own commercial routes.
- Air sorties in excess of 45,000 from Pakistani bases.
- On the average, 0.4 million litres of fuel per day to the coalition aircraft operating from Pakistan.
- Curtailing Pakistan Navy's own operations/training in order to accommodate and facilitate the operations of coalition naval forces, which may be the largest amphibious operations in size, duration and depth that the US Marine Corps has conducted since the Korean War.
- Completion of 1,510 operations along Pakistan-Afghan border by Pakistan land forces at the request of coalition forces, employing up to 60,000 regular troops and 55,000 paramilitary personnel.
- Apprehension of 422 foreign nationals connected with Al Qaida by paramilitary and civil agencies, upon request of coalition forces.
- Provision of national liaison teams at Tampa, Florida and Bagram, Afghanistan.
- A proposed package worth approximately \$170,000 US for

the training of the Afghan National Army.

- Proposed provision of weapons to Afghan Army, coupled with technical weapon support.
- Prompt response for the donations to rebuild Afghanistan pledged at the Tokyo donors' conference.
- Hosting over 1.5 million Afghan refugees since Soviet withdrawal.

Thus, Pakistan is clearly committed to providing wholehearted support to coalition forces. As with many countries it has done so despite resource constraints, shortages of manpower and technical equipment. It has also done so despite the tense situation on Pakistan's eastern border, constitutional restraints on operations in the area along Pakistan-Afghan border and domestic sensitivities regarding operations within Pakistan territory by foreign soldiers.

Pakistan's support for coalition activities in Afghanistan from the outset strengthened Operation Enduring Freedom. The financial impact of terrorism on the Pakistan economy has in the order of \$ 6 billion since Oct 2001 – a significant impact on a fragile economy. Nevertheless, the country is unified to coordinate and assist other nations in eradicating the threat of terrorism.

Pakistan's support to the War on Terrorism has been unequivocal and not without cost as 12 officers and men of Pakistan military forces have already lost their lives in this regard.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the Coalition Bulletin cannot be attributed to any one nation, nor do they reflect the collective views of the Coalition. Rather, they are items considered newsworthy by the volunteers from various nations that make up the Public Awareness Working Group.